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Saturday, January 12, 1952.

Bob Murphy arrived last night from the United States. He and I went out to see General Eisenhower to talk to him about the European Defense Force, especially in relationship to the difficulties being caused by the Belgians. Just preceding our visit, the General had spent the better part of an hour with Stikker, and was encouraged by the latter's reaction. Indeed, for the last several days the Dutch have displayed a strong desire to reach an agreement, and have modified their former position in [redacted] important respects.

The Belgian stand, however, causes us a great deal of concern. What they want, in effect, is a coalition of armies, and no delegation to a central authority of portions of the national sovereignty of member countries. Bob has been away from Belgium for three months and will brief himself thoroughly before returning the next week. He is [redacted] persuasive, diplomatic, and I hope will be effective in bringing about a change in Van Zeeland's attitude. Meanwhile, the Belgian

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Government has resigned, but a new one of similar political composition will probably be shortly constituted.

E. and I went to lunch to-day with the Bidaults at 14 rue Saint Dominique. The private apartments in the Ministry of War are [redacted] attractive. The other guests were Paul Reynaud and his wife. After lunch, Messrs. Bidault, Reynaud and myself talked politics until after three o'clock. They are both pessimistic about an early resolution of the French Government crisis. Reynaud says it is a "crisis of the majority" and the only solution which might last more than a few months would be the formation of a national government, to include members of all parties except the Communists. Edgar Faure will keep working over the weekend to see whether he can get enough votes for his investiture. However, the various parties are far apart on principles. While awaiting a resolution to this problem, the situation of France, both as regards external prestige and internal finances, is deteriorating.

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We went down to-night to Versailles, and I re-revised another essay for my book on the Presidents.

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